GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Senior Deputy Director
for Health Care Finance

SEP 2 4 2003

Dear Medicaid Provider:

The deadline for compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is fast approaching, as such, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief update regarding the Department of Health Medical Assistance Administration's (MAA) efforts to achieve compliance with the HIPAA mandated transaction standards and code sets.

MAA's HIPAA Readiness: Over the past several months, the HIPAA remediation project team has made significant strides in remediating the District of Columbia Medicaid Management Information System (DC MMIS) to achieve compliance with the HIPAA regulations. In this regard, I am happy to inform you that MAA would be ready to accept, process, and generate all required HIPAA-mandated transaction(s) effective on or before *October 16, 2003*, with the exception of the ANSI ASC X12N 276/277 Claim Status Inquiry and Response transactions. These transactions include:

HIPAA Transaction(s)	Current Status	Remark
X12N 837 Institutional Claims	Testing Complete	Ready – October 16, 2003
X12N 837 Professional Claims	Testing Complete	Ready – October 16, 2003
X12N 837 Dental Claims	Testing Complete	Ready – October 16, 2003
X12N 835 Remittance Advice	Testing Complete	Ready – October 16, 2003
X12N 820 Capitation Payment	Testing Complete	Ready – October 6, 2003
X12N 834 Enrollment Roster	Testing Complete	Ready – October 6, 2003
X12N 270/271 Recipient Eligibility Inquiry/Response	Testing Complete	Ready – October 16, 2003
X12N 276/277 Claim Status Inquiry/Response	Testing On-going	Ready – TBD
X12N 278 Prior Authorization Request/Response	Testing Complete	Ready – October 16, 2003

Presently, the HIPAA Remediation project team is in the process of conducting System Testing for the X12N 276/277 Claim Status Inquiry and Response transactions. There is a good probability that the X12N 276/277 may be fully tested and available for deployment on October 16, 2003. In such an instance, MAA will inform you in writing of the change of status for the X12N 276/277 Claim Status Inquiry and Response transactions.

Acceptance of NSF claims: MAA understands that many DC Medicaid providers may not be ready to submit the HIPAA-mandated transactions by October 16, 2003. In accordance with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guideline for HIPAA compliance after October 16, 2003 implementation deadline, MAA has made a policy decision to allow DC Medicaid providers, that are not ready to submit HIPAA-mandated transactions by October 16, 2003, to continue submitting their Medicaid claims in the current electronic formats (NSF – National Standard Format and the UB92) for a period of **90 calendar days** starting October 16, 2003.

MAA recommends that the DC Medicaid providers who are interested in submitting their Medicaid claims in the current (NSF) format after October 16, 2003 should refer to the *"Guidance on HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets: After October 16, 2003 Implementation Deadline"* issued by CMS on July 24, 2003 for guidance regarding what actions/steps constitute a good faith effort. Providers will be responsible to make their own judgment whether or not they meet "a good faith effort" criteria established by CMS.

Please note that those providers that are ready to submit HIPAA-mandated transactions starting October 16, 2003 should submit their transactions in the HIPAA-mandated format. Providers that are expected to submit their transactions in the HIPAA-compliant format after October 16, 2003, but prior to expiration of the initial grace period 90 calendar days, should submit their HIPAA-mandated transactions when ready.

Availability of Print-image Remittance Advices on iDEx: MAA has received numerous requests to continue to publish the Print-image format of the Remittance Advice and the Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) after the implementation of HIPAA requirements. We understand that such an action would allow providers who are currently receiving the print-image and electronic version of their remittance advice through iDEx (Internet Data Exchange) mailbox to continue to receive their remittance advices in the same manner it is currently produced and distributed without any disruption.
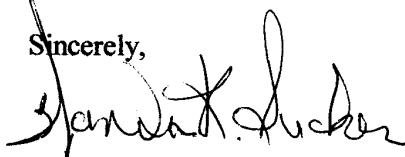
MAA has made a decision to continue to post the current electronic print-image format and electronic version of the remittance advice for those providers that are currently receiving them through their iDEx mailbox for a period of **90 calendar days** starting October 16, 2003. Providers that have already enrolled in this program do not have to take any additional action in this regard. Providers that are currently not enrolled in this program; however, would like to receive an electronic print-image format or electronic version of their remittance advice on iDEx, should contact the ACS EDI Gateway Support unit at (866) 775-8563.

Help Desk – Customer Service: MAA recognizes that our providers may have many questions regarding the proposed migration to HIPAA-mandated transactions on October 16, 2003. For questions regarding technical issues involving WINASAP 2003 software installation and trouble shooting, electronic claims submission, and electronic response retrieval, please contact the ACS EDI Gateway Support unit at (866) 775-8563. For questions related to claims processing, billing, payment, and policy and procedures, please contact ACS State Healthcare's Provider Relations Inquiry Desk at (866) 752-9233.

Lastly, on behalf of MAA and the HIPAA Remediation Project Team, I would like to express my appreciation to you for your continued support and cooperation throughout this highly visible and challenging project. Please be assured that my office and the HIPAA Remediation Project Team are fully committed to working with you throughout this transition period.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information about the HIPAA Remediation Project, please contact Yohannes Birre, Systems Administrator and HIPAA TCI Coordinator, of my staff at (202) 698-2014.

Sincerely,

Wanda R. Tucker
Deputy Director
Medical Assistance Administration

cc: Calvin Kearney – MAA
       Yohannes Birre – MAA
       ACS State Healthcare
       HIPAA TCI PMO